Ye Mayne Party Members From Volume I

PARTY

御雷 (Mikazuchi)

LV 8

AGE • 14

GENDER • ♂

HEIGHT • 158cm

JOB CLASS • SWORDSMAN (In Training)

TRAINING • KASHIMA FUSTUSHIN RYU

WEAPON • UNNAMED POWER/HOLY SWORD

ABILITY • CAN EQUIP HOLY SWORD

LIKES • NAKED GIRLS

WEAKNESS • CRYING GIRLS

炎華 (Honoka)

LV 5

AGE • 14

GENDER • ♀

HEIGHT • 156cm

JOB CLASS • SORCERESS (In Training)

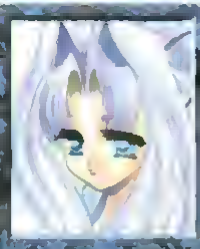
TRAINING • KASHIMA FUSTUSHIN RYU

WEAPON • TANTO (Short Sword)

ABILITY • NONE

LIKES • SWEET THINGS

WEAKNESS • DEATH OF PARENTS



沙耶 (Saya)

LV 15

AGE • 14

GENDER • ♀

HEIGHT • 152cm

JOB CLASS • UNKNOWN

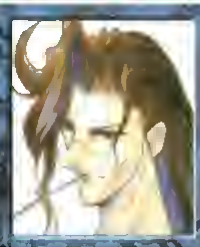
TRAINING • UNKNOWN

WEAPON • NONE

ABILITY • ABLE TO SUMMON A HOLY SWORD

LIKES • UNKNOWN

WEAKNESS • UNKNOWN



先生 (Sensei)

LV 24

AGE • 25

GENDER • ♂

HEIGHT • 177cm

JOB CLASS • BODYGUARD

TRAINING • SHINSHIN RYUKAI

WEAPON • KOROKAIAN NAGAMITSU

ABILITY • MOVES CAT-LIKE

LIKES • CATS

WEAKNESS • HIS CAT, FUBUKI

Chapter 7:
The Burden Of Power

SAYA!
I HAVE TO ASK...
PLEASE!
LET ME USE THAT
HOLY SWORD-A
YOURS AGAIN!
GRAARRR
WAK
!!
KIF
.. AN' SO I
SHALL BESTOW
IT UNTO THEE
MY LORD
MIKAZUCHI
!!
FORGIVE ME
HONERED
FATHER...
I KNOW YOU
ASKED ME TO
PROTECT
MIKAZUCHI
BUT ALL I
CAN DO IS
JUST STAND
HERE
AND
WATCH

BUT KNOWEST THOU, MY LORD, THE SPELL TO BRING FORTH MINE SWORD MOST HOLY NEEDS BE SEALED
WITH A RIGHTOUS -kiss-
EEEP !!
YIKES! I FORGOT ABOUT THAT PART !!
OH, CRAP, THAT'S RIGHT !!
THAT... THAT SWORD MIKA-JERKY WANTS TO USE... ...COMES FROM -SAYA- HERSELF !!
SO THAT MEANS HE'S GOTTA SUCK FACE WITH HER AGAIN ?!

STAND NAUGHT AS'OULD A PRIBBLING BEEF-WITTED SIMPLETON, MY LORD !!
F'K CRYIN' OUT LOUD, HOW CAN SHE BE SO BLASE ABOUT THIS ?!
WUFF WHAT TH' HECK'S MY PROBLEM ?! I MEAN, HERE'S A TOTAL *BABE* IN FRONT A ME
AN' I FREEZE LIKE A FREAKIN' ICICLE !!
GULP
WITHIN MINE BEATING BREAST SLEEPTH A Hungre Hurt Holy— COME, THEN !
GULP
D'ONT !
h ha HMMF !!
PWEE
FOR THOU HAST BEEN JUDGED MOST WORTHY TO RECEIVE ITS BLESSING
ALMOST THERE...! AL.... MOST.....
GRK !
WHAT TH' HELLZ'ER PROBLEM ?!

And in Our Passion, extend Our Course, Out tender outward the Movement attained !!
HOO-YEAH, THIS ROCKS! I THINK I COULD GET TA LIKE THIS !!
!
GLOMP
KYU
AAAHH !!
MY LORD MIKAZUCHI !!
NOW WHAT?! C'MON, SAYA, HURRY UP AN FINISH SAYIN THAT SPELL WHOZZIT-A YOURS !!
MIKAZUCHI, YOU ARE +SUCH+ A COMPLETE DICK
AHHH !!
GETTIN SOME AT A TIME LIKE THIS ?! JEEZ WOTTA A LITTLE HORN-DOG !!
SPAASH
★BTW, THIS IS A FICTIONAL WORK. THUS THE MAIN CHARACTERS, PARTIES, HISTORICAL PLACES, LANGUAGE, AND THE NAMES OF HISTORICAL PEOPLE HAVE LITTLE TO DO WITH REALITY

I do Bless thee O Holy Knight of mine and do grant thee mine Aibe !!
Receivest from me now this!
The Holiest of Holy Blades !!
KwEEE
VAVMKIN
!!
what.. WHAT IS THAT ?!
It's.. IT'S A SWORD !!
SHA

HSSSS
HSSSS
HOLO IT RIGHT THERE, YOU VILE BEAST !! PREPARE TO GET SENT BACK TO THE HELLISH PIT FROM WHENCE YOU CAME !!
CAN'T BE-LIEVE I JUST SAID THAT CORNBALL CRAP, ESPECIALLY SINCE I CAN BARELY SWING THIS STUPID SWORD !!
GWARRR !!
AWWAM
WHOA! SHIT!

?!
WHAT TH' HECK ?!
SWING
HWABAH !!
!!
NO WAY !!
NNNNN NGHNF !!
CHK

...YES WAY !!
I CAN ACTUALLY ~~SWING~~ THIS THING !!
WHAK
SWH
E
HWE
SPA
SHA
AA
wh... WHAT ?!

TH-THAT WAS AMAZIN' !!
TH' LI'L PUNK SURE PUT A HURT ON IT !!

GWARRR!!
WRITHE WRITHE
SPAZ SPAZ

I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW MUCH LIGHTER THIS SWORD IS SINCE TH' LAST TIME I USED IT !!
I DUNNO WHY, BUT I AIN'T COMPLAININ' NONE, NEITHER !!

SHA
GA
OKAY, PAL ! TIME TA FINISH YOU OFF !!
TA A A M

ICE
SHIELD
DRAGON!!

PASHAAA

IN... INCREDIBLE !!
THIS MIKAZUCHI PERSON... HE HAS SUCH POWER ?!
YES... IT WAS INDEED INCREDIBLE
AND YET...?!
IT DIDN'T +FEEL+ LIKE A POWER FROM JAPAN !!
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT SWORD... AND WHERE DOES IT COME FROM ?!
BLIP
THOU HAST FOUGHT MOST BRAVE AN' NOBLE, MY LORD...
SAYA...
um... TELL ME, SAYA...
a... AYE, MY LORD MIKAZUCHI...?

YO, KID
!
OH
THANKS
IF YOU HADN'T BEEN HERE, ALL OF MY IDIOT STUDENTS WOULD'VE BEEN KILLED
uh, NO PROBLEM
YEAH ! YOU DA ~~MAN~~, KID !!
THUMP
YEAH, OUR SENSEI WAS *TOTALLY* IN OVER HIS HEAD WITH THIS ONE! HE'D A BEEN ~~CREAMED~~ FOR SURE IF YOU WEREN'T HERE !!
YUP! YUP!
I'LL TELL YA, THAT'S ONE + ~~BAD-ASS~~ + BLADE YA GOTS THERE ! MIND IF I TAKE A LOOK-SEE ?
HUH?! OH, WELL, IT AIN'T REALLY MINE, Y'SEE .. IT CAME FROM SAYA !
WELL, IN THAT CASE YOU DON'T MIND D'YA MISS ?

WELL, TRUTH BE TOLD :
HEY, YOU C'N TRUST ME ! I'M SOUR—
SWSH
NUH? HUH?! WHA-HELL ?!
SWISH
SWD
THIS GLAVE MOST SACRED BE BUT MINE OWN !
AND ALL SAVE HE WHO HATH RECEIVED MINE KISS OF POWYRE MAY TOUCH IT NAUGHT !
SO YA NEEDS A KISS FIRST ? WELL, C'MON, BABY, PUCKER UP !!
KOOOOH
TOOOOT !!

BACK OFF, MAN! I'M THE ONLY ONE SHE GIVES IT TO !!
URK !!
GLOOP
WHAT "IT" IS HE TALKING ABOUT ?
EEEE NOOOH !!
EVEN IF YOU -COULD- GET A KISS OFF A HER, I DOUBT VERY MUCH A BUNCH OF CLODS LIKE YOU GUYS WOULD BE ALLOWED TO HOLD -THAT- SWORD !
AWWWWW, GEE WHIZ, SENSEI, THAT WASN'T A VERY NICE THING TA SAY !
NOTHING PERSONAL, GUYS... THAT'S JUST THE WAY IT IS ....
ISN'T THAT RIGHT .....
MISS ?
nod

AWWWWW! BUT HOW COME WE AIN'T GOOD ENOUGH, SENSEI ?!
snivel whine
AN THESE WERE CALL THEM SELVES ANGELS !?!
!
...
mmm
...AND THANK -YOU- FOR TAKING CARE OF NER ...
oh ...
um—NO PROBLEM... SHE'S ... REALLY NICE ...
...AN' SO FLUFFY AN' SOFT, TOO ...
aw
SO I TAKE IT YOU LIKE CATS, THEN ?
I ... I GUESS .. I MEAN THIS S THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN ONE
SEEN A CAT ?!

WELL... ME-N-MIKAZUCHI GREW UP ON THIS LI'L ISLAND THAT WAS PRETTY MUCH ISOLATED FROM EVERYTHING AHHHHHD.. SO
YOU AND THE KID EH ?
SO I TAKE IT YOU KNEW HIS MASTER, THEN
um yeah
he was my honored father
I SEE
THAT'S WHY IT'S ~~MY FAULT~~ MY MASTER GOT KILLED !!
HUH ?!
PLMF

KEEP DOING YOUR BEST, Y'HEAR ?
.....
WELL, SINCE ALL THE RUCKUS AN' HUR-BUB SEEM T'RE OVER, WHY DON'T YOU ALL COME IN FOR A BITE TO EAT? MY TREAT, OF COURSE !
YOUR TOP-KNOT TOO TIGHT OR SOMETHING, POPS ?!
DON'T BE PAMPERING THESE MAMBY-PAMBY BUTT-BRAINS !!
WHATCHOO CALL US, PUNK ?!
ALL RIGHT YOU GUYS, SIMMER DOWN !!
YEAH, YOU TOO, MIKAZUCHI ! QUIT STARTIN' STUFF !!

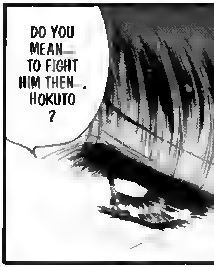
I WONDER... COULD IT HAVE JUST BEEN MY IMAGINATION ...?
NO I JUST CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING THAT THE GIRL IN THE RED KIMONO WAS SUPPOSE TO BE THE ONE WHO AUGMENTS MIKAZUCHI'S POWER.
...I... I... I'M NOT SURE WHAT THAT SWORD WAS.. IT... IT FELT. .
ummmm...
OH! oh !
blush
AND WHAT OF THE WITCH WHO MANIFESTED THAT STRANGE SWORD FROM HER BODY ?
SPSH

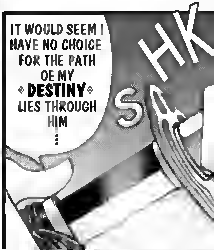
I'M ASKING YOU, WAS IT THE SACRED BLADE FUTSUNO MITAMA OR WAS IT NOT ?!
I DUNNO.. MAYBE.. MAYBE SINCE THE LAST SCION OF THE SWORD WAS DEFEATED ..
It kinda looks different now ..? (maybe?)

SEARCH YOUR FEELINGS SEIRAN !!
DID IT OR DID IT NOT RESONATE WITH MIKAZUCHI'S SOUL-WAVE ?!

shake shake

chuckle SO..... IT WOULD APPEAR THAT IT FALLS UPON ME TO ASCERTAIN THE TRUTH AFTER ALL
!
SLP


DO YOU MEAN... TO FIGHT HIM THEN.. HOKUTO ?

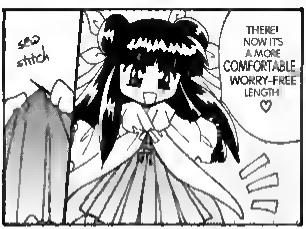

IT WOULD SEEM I HAVE NO CHOICE FOR THE PATH OF MY ◆DESTINY◆ LIES THROUGH HIM ..
SHK

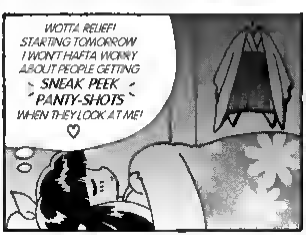
※ KUYŌ SHICHISEI- "NINE SUNS, SEVEN STARS"

◆ to be continued ◆

PRESENTING! THE *"Omigod-I-Still-Need-One-More-Page!"* SEXY OMAKE FILLER !!

"YOU GO, LI'L SEIRAN!"





完 END

Chapter 5:
The Holy Sword, Ruyō Shichiseki

FWM
FWSH
KUH KLK
hff
hff pant
COME NOW, MIKAZUCHI, THAT WAS *HARDLY* A THOUSAND SWINGS
NO! I DUN— I DUN WANNA DOTS ANYMORE !
I JUS WANNA GO 'N PWAY WIF HONOKAJAN !!
HOWCUM I GODDA DO IS EV RY DAY, HUH ?! HOWCUM ?!
BECAUSE YOU ARE A BOY, THAT'S WHY
NO ID AIN'T !!
I S CUZ I AIN CHOO REAL SON, INNIT MASTER?!
INNIT?!
YOU H.ATE MEEE !!

MIKA-ZUCHI
KRRR
IN HERE
DUNNA GODS GED MAD AT PEOPLE WHO CUMMIN HERE, MASTER ?
'AT'S WHAD HONOKA-JAN SAID... SHE SAID WE'D BE IN TROUBLE +BIG TIME+ IF WE EVUH CAME IN HERE
"chuckle"
THAT'S TRUE FOR HONOKA
AFTER ALL, SHE'S A +GIRL+, MIKAZUCHI
HUH —?!

THIS IS A SACRED PLACE FOR +MEN+ ONLY, YOU SEE
MEN ONLY ? THEN HOWCUM I GETTA—
OHHH !
OKAY !!
WOWWWW.. I'S SO BIG !
THIS IS THE SACRED SWORD 「布都御霊」 FU TSUNO MI TAMA
SA-KRED SWORD ?
FUTSUNO-MITAMA, SPIRITS OF THE LAND (Remember?)

OH! "SACRED SWORD" MEANS IZZA SWORD FROM A GODS, RIGHT, MASTER ?!
THAT'S RIGHT, MIKAZUCHI, VERY GOOD !
CLAP
CLAP
BOW
CHK
SHIIIIING

FWW
FEE
FW
THIS LIGHT YOU SEE IS +PROOF+ THAT A PORTION OF THE GODS' POWER HAS BEEN INFUSED WITHIN
AND IT IS THIS -DIVINE LIGHT- THAT PROTECTS US, ONE AND ALL
...BUT THERE SHALL COME A DAY WHEN THE LIGHT WILL SHINE NO MORE

NAAAAH?! b b BUT WHAT WILL PROTECT EVYBODY WHAT'AT HAPPEHS ?
WHAT INDEED? I SUPPOSE ON THE DAY THAT THE LIGHT WITHIN THE SWORD GOES OUT, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO DEPEND UPON YOUR POWER, MIKAZUCHI !
MY POWER ?! WHY ME ?
WHADDABOUT YOUR POWER, MASTER ?
THAT WON'T BE A PROBLEM, SO LONG AS YOU TRAIN VERY HARD, MIKAZUCHI
IF YOU CAN BECOME STRONG— -TRULY- STRONG IN BODY AND SPIRIT .....
...THE SWORD WILL ALWAYS SHINE FOR YOU WITH THE POWER OF THE GODS !
BECAUSE -YOU- MIKAZUCHI, ARE THE chosen one !
YOU MEAN ME.. ANNIS SWORD ..... ?
SO.. WHY DON'T WE MAKE A PACT TOGETHER ON THIS ?
REALLY ?! THEN.. um— I...I....

I SWEAR I'GED STRONGER, NO MADDER WHAT !
I'M GONNA TRAIN REALLY, REALLY HARD T'BE AS STRONG AS I CN BE !
ANNAT WAY I CN PROTECT HONOKA-JAN, ANNER MOM, AN' YOU, AN' EVYBODY ELSE INNA WHOLE WORLD !

IT'S A PROMISE, THEN
UH-UH!
IZZA MAN-TO-MAN PROMISE !!
man to man pro
master
GWMF
HAH !!
SNK
. . .
ONLY A DREAM
RUB RUB

THE DAY MY MASTER DIED
FUTSUNO-MITAMA WAS BROKEN BECAUSE I
I FAILED TO BECOME STRONG ENOUGH TO USE IT
BECAUSE I FAILED MY MASTER !!
AWWWW
WHATTA DRAG !
I WAS REALLY HOPIN' TH'KITTY-SENSEI WOULD-A GONE TO EDO WITH US !
VERILY SO! AN ADULT SUCH AS HE WHO DOTH BE FAMILIAR WITH THE MANNERS OF THE TOWNE 'TWOULD BE A BOON ALONG THESE ROUGH UNEVEN WAYS
THANKS... TO BE HONEST. NOW THAT I KNOW JUBEI YAGYU HAS INDEED GONE TO EDO. I WOULDN'T MIND ACCOMPANYING YOU GUYS AT ALL .
BUT TODAY I MUST ATTEND THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MY STUDENT WHO WAS KILLED BY THAT BEAST YESTERDAY
BEE, IE HE COULD-A COME WITH US, I COULD-A HELD TH'KITTY SOME MORE !
AND, AHD

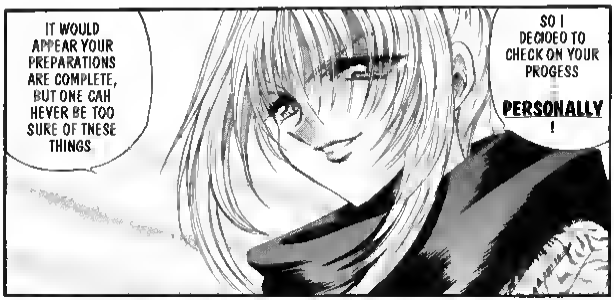
...AND WHEN HE PUT HIS HAND ON MY HEAD...
...IT FELT LIKE I WAS WITH MY HONORED FATHER AGAIN...
EVEN ONE LENGTH OF HIS Y'KNOW'S WERE THE SAME
YAWN
I
AW JEEZ, D'YOU HAFTA KEEP YAWNIN' LIKE THAT ?! I WAS HAVIN' A MOMENT, Y'KNOW !!
SORRY, MAN CAN'T HELP IT.. I REALLY SLEPT LIKE ~~DOG CRAP~~ LAST NIGHT
TSK
DON'T ~~EVEN~~ TRY TO SAY I WAS SNORING, MIKAZUCHI
I, MYSELF, DID ENJOY THE HONEY HEAVY DEW OF [illegible]
OHHHHH! WAIT A MINUTE, I KNOW !!
DIDJEMS HAVVA ~~SCAWY~~ DWEAM THAT KEPT-OO UP AWW NIGHT ?!
WHAT ?! ~~HELL NO~~ !!

BY THE PRICKING OF MY THUMBS SOMETHING WICKED THIS WAY COMES !
THE SENSE OF DEATH IS MOST IN APPRENSION AS T'WAS THAT DAY ON YON ISLAND !
GASP !
HAI BINGO !
"BINGO" MY ASS !
MY MY LORD MIKAZUCHI !!
DASH
MM ?!
?
M-MOP !!
HWOOP !!
SAYA! WHA-TH' FUHHHH ?!
HEEE !!
SWEAR I AIN'T "NEVER" GONNA GET USED TO THIS !!
mmm
WAAH

HUH ?!
GASP! SOME-THING'S COMING !!
mwee !
O Holy Powyre that lies between the Silence and Soul Sources !
Bestowest upon him that i hath chosen, thy Muse's total retain !
INOP
w WHAT ? FEEL SO SO
SOME-THING DEADLY !!
SP AA ASH
And in our passion extend our course
Out leader outward the Movement attained!
Zsh Zsh
Issh

HUH?
IT'S A GIRL?
KWEE
FW
Receiwest from me now, this: the holiest of Holy Blades!
!!
VA
M
SK

KA
KRAK
PCHOW
DOOM
!!
AHHHH
SO AT LAST WE MEET
MIKAZUCHI !
WHATEVER IT IS IT'S
CROSSING INTO OUR WORLD !!
BUT WHY ?! WHO IS IT ?! AND HOW IS IT THAT I KNOW THIS ?!


IT WOULD APPEAR YOUR PREPARATIONS ARE COMPLETE, BUT ONE CAN NEVER BE TOO SURE OF THESE THINGS
SO I DECIDED TO CHECK ON YOUR PROGESS PERSONALLY !

WHAT TH' HELL ?! DUNNO WHO THIS ASSHOLE IS, BUT HE REEKS OF "BAD GUY" ALL OVER !
uh... NOW... NOW WAIT A MINUTE... I...uh... THAT IS.... ...um...

THIS ... THIS YOUNG SIR !
VERILY BE HE THE SOURCE OF THE MALEVOLENCE I DOTH DO FEEL !

WHAT'S GOING ON ?! THIS GUY'S TOTALLY GIVING ME TH'CREEPS !
AND ... AND YET ...

...I FEEL SO... SO... HOMESICK !
BUT... WHY ?!

SEIRAN !
HAI !
SHING
CLAP
!!
?!
FZZZAAAK
We Who Serve Our Master...
The Great Undead Spirit Of The House Of Hokuto !!

Let This Sword Become The Home To Your Godly Powers That It May Protect Your Humble Servants !!
This Holy Blade That Is Named
九曜七星 !!
KU YŌ SHICHI SEI

crackle
crackle
crackle
HSST
heh-heh
ALLOW ME TO INRODUCE YOU TO
KUYŌ SHICHISEI
-MY-
holy sword
!!
d-DID HE SAY... -HOLY- SWORD ?!
!!

ANOTHER HOLY SWORD?! BUT I THOUGHT FUSTUNO-MITAMA WAS THE ONLY ONE OF ITS KIND?!!
EVEN SO... JUST BECAUSE THEY CAN USE A HOLY SWORD, DOES THAT MEAN THEY'RE REALLY OUR ALLIES?!
I'VE WAITED A LONG TIME FOR THIS DAY, MIKAZUCHI.
THE DAY WHEN AT LAST I GET TO KILL YOU WITH KUYO-SHICHISEI !!
HA! I AIN'T GOTTA +CLUE+ WHAT YOUR PROBLEM IS, PAL !.....
NO, WAIT! DON'T DO IT! SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT HERE, MIKAZUCHI!!
YOU DOT NO REASON TO FIGHT HIM, SO——
BUT IF YOU'RE LOOKIN' T'BUY A FIGHT, HEY, I'M SELLIN' !!
AW HONOKA !
DO -NOT- INTERFER !!
FWM

SLA
SH
eh
?!

ugn
MIKAZU
c.h!
ho

HONOKA !!
SO, IS THAT BETTER ?
MY LADY HONOKA !!
DID I GIVE YOU REASON ENOUGH TO FIGHT ME NOW ?
NO ONE... AN' I MEAN NO ONE HURTS HONOKA...
YOU SON OF A.....BITCH.....
Ugnn. he.hhh. he.hhh.

GRAB
AN' GETS AWAY WITH IT !!
BWOOSH
OOO-TAH !
YOU REALLY SHOULD HAVE TRIED SOMETHING MORE LIKE THIS!
ASS HOLE !!
I'D SAY YOU WERE TRYING TO THRUST THAT THING INTO MY GUT !
WHY I SWEAR IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER !

SWIKT
-KT-
HE'S
HE'S
FAST
!
"DEAD PEOPLE WHO"
.....
?!
muh
master
.....
?!
TRUMP CARD ?! WHAT TH'HELL'RE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT ?!
BWSH
YOU KNOW, DAMN YOU! I WANT YOU TO USE WHAT YOU RECEIVED FROM THOSE--
+DEAD PEOPLE+
YOU WERE LIVING WITH !!
SO, PERHAPS YOU'RE READY TO FIGHT ME A LITTLE MORE SERIOUSLY NOW !
DON'T HOLD YOUR TRUMP CARD BACK ON MY ACCOUNT ! GO FOR IT !

THE OTHER DAY, REMEMBER ? YOUR ISLAND'S -SACRED SEAL- WAS BROKEN WHICH !
—FREED THE "MONSTERS" THE ORIGINAL DENIZENS OF THE ISLAND TO ATTACK YOU THAT GIRL, YOUR MASTER AND HIS WOMAN.
AND THE ONE WHO CUT THE ROPE AND SET THE MONSTERS UPON YOU ?
THAT WAS !
.....ME !!

WHAT TH'HELL'RE YOU BABBLIN' ABOUT ?!
chuckle GOOD GRIEF, BUT YOU'RE THICK HEADED FINE LET ME PUT THIS IN TERMS EVEN +YOU+ CAN UNDERSTAND
WHAT I'M TELLING YOU IS

THE ONE WHO HAD YOUR MASTER KILLED.....
.....WAS -ME- !!
◆ to be continued ◆

"IN THAT INSTANT
"MY MIND CLOUDED OVER WITH HIS WORDS ECHOING IN MY HEAD
"THE ONE WHO HAD YOUR MASTER -KILLED- ?"
"THAT WAS -ME- !!"
THE BLOOD FROM THE WOUND ON HONOKA'S BACK FROM WHERE THAT BASTARD HAD -CUT- HER STILL FELT WARM IN MY HAND
" AND AS THE TRUTH OF WHO THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR MY MASTER'S DEATH REALLY WAS SANK IN
"WELL...
"I JUST -LOST- IT."

-Chapter 9-

The Inheritor Of The Holy Spirit

SHAA
KHAG
THE KOBIKI SECTOR OF EDO
THE YAGYŪ DŌJŌ FOR SHADOW-TECHNIQUE FENCING
FWM
FWM

MM
WW
SOMETHING UNNATURAL IS HAPPENING
HMMM... MY RIGHT EYE +ACHES+ WITH VENGENCE AND DESPAIR

Chk
TTTTTTTTT
COULD IT BE THAT THE ONE I'M FATED TO MEET, THE ONE I'VE EAGERLY AWAITED FOR ALL THESE MANY YEARS, WILL SOON BE ARRIVING ?!
HEH
>chuckle< NO.....
THE TRUTH IS A NEW -APPRENTICE- FOR ME TO FORGE AND TEMPER WILL SOON MAKE HIS WAY HERE...
LIKE CLAY FROM HALLOWED GROUND, I SHALL MOLD YOU WITH MY OWN TWO HANDS !!
I SHALL MAKE YOU STRONG ..... MIKAZUCHI !!

SLASH
SHAA
>heh-heh<
O
COME NOW! THAT WASN'T EVEN CLOSE
OOO
RRRAAA
RRRRGH
!!

UNBELIEVEABLE !!
SUCH +AWSOME+ POWER !!
BA
KA
NG
ZPAK
WHERE DOES IT GET ITS POWER TO CUT THROUGH ALMOST ANYTHING FROM ?
...IT'S SO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM HOKUTO'S HOLY SWORD, "KUYŌ SHICHISEI" !!
CAN THAT .....

DAR'ST THOU NOT DIE !!
CLING'ST THOU, TO THE TENDER LEAVES OF HOPE !!
MY LADY HONOKA !!
OR IS IT SOMETHING ELSE ?
...CAN THAT -TRULY- BE "FUTSUNO MITAMA'S" POWER ?!
uuu
uuu
uuu

KANG
OORR ROWW AAAGH !!
STAGGER
GRIND
KTTK
GRIND
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
THIS... THIS SWORD OF HIS !!

>hah<
JUST AS I SUSPECTED
FWM
SWISH
WHAT ?!
ANG
K
SWISH
THOOM
UFF !!

SHIT!!
KCHAAK
MY.....
MY LORD MIKAZUCHI!!
GASP!!
HWE
EN
I BEG THEE YIELD, MY LIEGE!
THOU HAST MEASURED SWORDS, NOW THE TIME TO CRY "HOLD ENOUGH!" IS AT HAND!!
LORD MIKA-ZUCHI!!
AND SHE'S RIGHT OVERRR THERE!!
THAT GLOW!!
IT'S REACTING TO THE PRESENCE OF A FAMILIAR!!

ALRIGHT, MIKA ZUCHI WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS CHARADE ? WHERE IS ~~YOUR~~ SWORD ?!
WHAT THE HELL'RE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT ?!
EH ?!
THIS SWORD YOU'RE USING NOW INDEED HAS FORMIDABLE POWER
BUT !!
IT'S ~~NOT~~ THE SWORD I WISH TO FIGHT AGAINST !!
TOUGH SHIT !!
SWP
VWM
GWLK !!
WUMK

WELL ?! "FUTSUNO MITAMA_" !! WHERE THE HELL IS IT ?!
hwuk ka-PP ka-PP hwllllk k/l/k
UNLESS IT'S WITH "FUSTUNO MITAMA_", FIGHTING A LITTLE BITCH LIKE YOU IS A -COMPLETE- WASTE OF MY TIME !!
DID... DID HE SAY ... "FUTSUNO MITAMA_" ?!
SEIRAN !
I BELIEVE HE CALLED HER "HONOKA" ?
I WAS RIGHT ! SHE ~IS~ MIKAZUCHI'S FAMILIAR, ISN'T SHE ?
NAY !
STP
CRNGE

DA-*HHK*-DAMMIT !!
LEA-*KKKT*-LEAVE HOHOKA TH'HELL ALONE !!
AH, BUT IF WE DO, HOW WILL YOU EVER BE ABLE TO SUMMON "FUTSUNO MITAMA" ?
I BEG YE, STOP !!
THE BLADE YE CALL "FUTSUNO MITAMA" EXISTS NO MORE !
THERE IS NO REASON, THERE IS NO REASON, MY SOUL !

>hee-hee heek< SUCH A -FUNNY- WAY TO SAY SUCH A -SILLY- THING !
WHAT ? DO YOU THINK WE'RE STUPID ?!
NAY, NAY !!
WITH MINE OWN EYES I DOTH SAW IT !!

IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE MOST RECENT, THE HOLY BLADE, "FUTSUNO MITAMA" ... WAST BROK'N !!
YOU THINK ?
TELL ME, MIKAZUCHI, IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN WHY DO YOU STILL LIVE ?!
?!

OH, PLEASE, WHAT'S WITH THE STUPID LOOK ?
YOU MEAN YOU -TRULY- DON'T KNOW ?
MORE SPECIFICALLY, THEY CHOSE +YOUR BODY+ TO BE THEIR WEAPON !
THE GOD'S CHOSE YOU, IMBICILE !
!!
'FUTSUNO MITAMA' "THE SPIRIT OF THE LAND" !
YOU THINK THAT REEERS TO THE GODS? WELL... THINK AGAIN!

THE SWORD IS CHARGED WITH THE POWER OF THE LEGENDARY THUNDER PRINCE, TAKEMIKA ZUCHINO MIKOTO, WHOSE SPIRIT IS STORED IN A HUMAN VESSEL !!
AND GUESS WHOSE BODY WAS CHOSEN AS THE VESSEL FOR TAKEMIKA ZUCHINO MIKOTO, PISS-ANT ?!

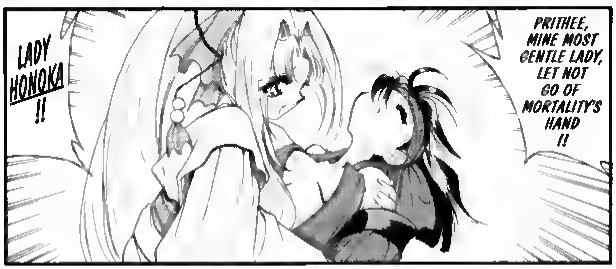
WSH
THAT'S BULLSHIT, MAN !!
TOTAL BULLSHIT !!
>hee-hee!<
SO YOUR MASTER REALLY HEVER TOLD YOU, EH ?
WELL HUN, LOOKS LIKE YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO AWAKEN YOUR BOYFRIEND'S POWER SO HE'LL SEE WE'RE TELLING THE TRUTH !
cGm
cGm
YOU SAY YOU HATE ME ? OF COURSE YOU DO— OUR FAMILIES HAVE BEEN BITTER -ENEMIES- FOR GENERATIONS
DON'T YOU WANT MIKAZUCHI TO DEEEAT YOUR ENEMY ?
PRAY THEE STOP !!
ALREADY SHE HATH BEEN MOST NOTORIOUSLY ABUSED BY THY MALICE !!
cGm
ohhhh
AWWW, WHAZZA MATTER, SWEETHEART? DON'T'CHA WANNA GIVE MIKAZUCHI A WIDDLE POWER ?
HUH ? DON'T'CHA ?
KISS
U3N
SCREECH !!

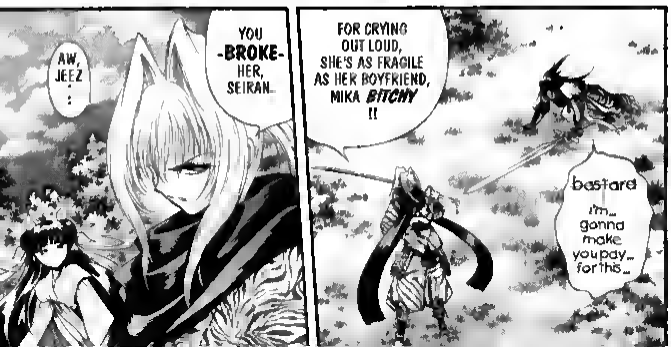
WHA—
WHAT TH' FUCK?!
H-HONOKA!!
HAHH……
AHHH!!
OOOO
KRAKKSH!!
MY LADY!!
PWEEE
>hahaa<
YES
THAT'S IT……

AHHHH
!!
KYOO
OOM
KFFT
HLK
WHAT TH HELLIZ GOIN' ON ?!
MY LADY !!
O! MY LADY !!
BUM BUM BUM
HONO
KKK
HLKK
K...KK... KKKKT
!!
GASP
AHHH
!
HHHGN
!!

G
HNG

EH ?!
but... but why didn't she


LADY HONOKA !!
PRITHEE, MINE MOST GENTLE LADY, LET NOT GO OF MORTALITY'S HAND !!


AW, JEEZ :
YOU -BROKE- HER, SEIRAN...
FOR CRYING OUT LOUD, SHE'S AS FRAGILE AS HER BOYFRIEND, MIKA BITCHY !!
bastard
i'm... gonna make you pay... for this...

I DON'T CARE HOW LONG IT TAKES !!
I'M GONNA GET YOU !!
I GROW WEARY OE YOUR INNANE, LOW BROW PRATTLE
>sigh<
.. AND I PUT -SO MUCH- EFFORT INTO THIS LITTLE MEETING OF OURS, TOO
SUCH A DISAPPOINT MENT
DON'T YOU FUCKING TURN YOUR BACK ON ME, YOU SUNNVA——
WM
!!

MY LORD MIKZUCHI
I DON'T KNOW —WHY— I EVEN THOUGHT A WEAKLING COULD USE A SWORD LIKE FUTSUNO MITAMA.

◆to be continued◆

Chapter 10:
The Quest For Revenge!!

EDO
(The Former Name of the City of TOKYO)
THANK YOU FOR COMING HERE TODAY UJO-SENSEI.
I'M SURE IT WAS TERRIBLY INCONVENIENT FOR YOU, WHAT WITH THE WEATHER AND ALL ...
OH, TUT-TUT !
THE WEATHER'S A MERE TRIFLE COMPARED TO SEEING HOW WELL YOUR HEALTH HAS IMPROVED
SP
SH
SH
TO ME, THAT'S THE MOST IMPORTART THING

MURMER
MURMER
IS ... IS HE DEAD ?!
YOU SAY HE JUST WASHED UP FROM THE RIVER ?
HOW DO YOU THINK IT HAPPENED ?!
POOR THING ...
AND AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE, TOO .
WAIT A MINUTE !! I...I THINK HE'S STILL ALIVE !!
WHAT ?!
HURRY, EVERYONE !!
WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM TO A DOCTOR RIGHT AWAY !!

HWOOO
IT'S SO DARK!
WHERE... WHERE AM I?
MIKA... ZUCHI...
HO... HONOKA?!
YOU... LIED TO US.... MIKAZUCHI...
THOU HAST.. NOT KEPT... THY SQUARE!
SAYA!!
DIDST THOU NOT... SWEAR'ST TO PROTECT OUR LIVES... WE TWO MOST FAIR... AN' VIRTUOUS... MAIDENS?

HONOKA……!!
SAYA-AAAH!!
!!
YOU LET EVERYBODY DOWN DIDN'T YOU, GARBAGE-BOY?
YOU SEE?

SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST -ROT- BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD LIKE THE ~~GARBAGE~~ YOU ARE ?!
WHOOSH
!!
GRIP
WAH !!
NO! STOP !!
TUG
TUG

GWSH
GRAB
AH! MIKAZUCHI-KUN! SO YOU'RE FINALLY AWAKE, ARE YOU ?
STAMP
HAAH
UH HAH
UHAAH
HAAH AH
NOOOO ! !!
ZSH
ZSH
ZSH
OOOWAAHHHH!!

FWM
OOO WRAA AAAA AAAA AAAH !!
POK
WHOA, NOW
LET'S... BE A -LITTLE- MORE CAREFUL WITH THAT, SHALL WE ?
.....
.....huh ?

where ... WHERE ...
-PLEASE, MIKAZUCHI-KUN, LET'S CALM OURSELVES, OKAY ?
WHERE TH'HELL AM I ?!
SAYA !! NONOKAAAA !!
OH, MY-MY MY ... YOU MEAN YOU +ACTUALLY+ LEET THAT THING HE'S WAVING AROUND BY HIS SIDE ?
NOT ONE OE YOUR BRIGHTER MOVES EH LITTLE BROTHER ?
a-heh-heh-heh! EEEL EREE TO SAY, "I TOLD YOU SO!" AHYTIME, SIS !
I BELIEVE YOU JUST DID >chuckle<
THOSE WERE SOME -VERY- SERIOUS WOUNDS YOU HAD THERE, CHILD ...
THE FACT THAT YOU'RE UP AND ABOUT AND ACTING SO -VIOLENTLY- WOULD NORMALLY BE QUITE IMPRESSIVE— EXCEPT I KNOW HOW YOU ARE

HEY, I—I
KNOW YOU
EH, MIKAZUCHI-KUN? ♡
OH ?
I'M PLEASED THAT YOU REMEMBER ME FROM OUR PREVIOUS ENCOUNTER AT THE INN
<chuckle> NOW, WHY DON'T YOU GET SOME REST ?
I'LL GO AND TELL HOHOKA-CHAH THAT YOU RE AWA——
HOHOKA- ?!
SHE'S OKAY ?! SHE'S HERE ?! WHERE ?!

ZOOM
HEY, WAIT! YOUR FEET!
AT LEAST PUT YOUR ~~ZORI~~ ON !!
NOT ONE OF YOUR BRIGHTER MOVES EH SIS ?
TOUCHÉ, LITTLE BROTHER, TOUCHÉ
HONOKA
OH, PLEASE PLEASE ~~PLEEEASE~~ BE OKAY HONOKA
HONOKA !!

HONO
ka
!
mika
ZUCHI
?!

MIKA-ZUCHEE-YEE-YEE-YEE-YEE !!
HONOKA !!
OH--OH THANK THE GODS, MIKAZUCHI !!
I...I...I THOUGHT YOU WERE NEVER GONNA WAKE——
I...
I...
I....
UHWAAH HAAAAH !!
HONO KA
OH THANK GODDAMES! YOU'RE OKAY HONOKA

SOB
CHOKE
HONOKA
.....
GASP
!!
SHOVE
huh
?!
WHAT
?
TWIST
YANK
WEEEK
!!
WHAT THE
FUCK
IS YOUR
PROBLEM
?!

YOU!
SLAP
SLAP
SLAP
YOU PERVERT!!
I HATE YOU!! HERE I WAS WORRIED HALF TO DEATH ABOUT YOU AND AND AND... ...AN YOU GOTTA GO AN ACT LIKE SOME SLEAZY DIRTBAG!!
oh... thank-goodness
THANK GOOD—
"THANK GOODNESS" MY ASS!
bastard!
your... your back... it's...it's not SCARRED from where... ...from where...
huh?
I'm... I'M SO SORRY...
plip
plip

I'M SO SORRY, HONOKA / PLEASE FORGIVE ME !!!
I'M... I'M SUCH A LOSER !!
I'M GARBAGE / I'M LOWER THAN GARBAGE !!
whoe. hey.
C'MON NOW WHY WOULD YOU WANNA SAY SUMPEN LIKE THAT, HUN ?
I HAD MY MASTER'S... YOUR FATHER'S KILLER RIGHT IN FRONT-A ME AN' I—I—
...I COULDN'T OO SHIT !!
AN'... AN' I TOLD YOU
/ +PROMISED+ YOU THAT I WOULD...
...I would——

I WAS S'POSTA -PROTECT- YOU, DAMMIT !!
AN' I COULDN'T !!
I ~~FUCKING~~ COULDN'T !!
MI kazitch ...
I THOUGHT I WAS SO ~~FUCKIN'~~ COOL ...
...BUT THE TRUTH IS MY BEATIN' ALLA THEM MONSTERS HAD NOTHIN' T'DO WITH ME BEIN' STRONG
SQUEEZE
...IF IT WASN'T FOR SAYA GIVIN' ME HER "KISS A POWER"
...IF SHE HADN'T LENT ME THAT SWORD A HER'S THERE'S NO WAY I COULD A
I AIN'T ~~SHIT~~, HONOKA / I'M A TOTAL FUCKIN' LOSER !!
I'M SO SORRY! FORGIVE ME!
FORGIVE ME!
FORGIVE ME, HONOKAAAH !!
.....

please... stop it, mikazuchi
...you ain't got nothin' to apologize for, 'kay ?
YOU DID THE BEST YOU COULD FOR BOTH ME -AND- MY HONORED FATHER
.. I'm sure.. .I -KNOW- HE WOULD HAVE BEEN REALLY PROUD OF YOU
YOU— YOU OFFERED YOUR -LIFE- FOR US, MIKAZUCHI
AN' THAT'S THAT'S -MORE- THAN ENOUGH, 'KAY ?
JUST JUST FORGET ABOUT IT, 'KAY ?
please? let's— let's BOTH just forget the whole thing happened 'kay? please ?
hono : ¥kkk+¥

...I FOUND THAT MY WOUNDS HAD ALMOST COMPLETELY HEALED THEMSELVES
HUH ?!
...SO, AHYWAY, AETER THE CARRIAGE BROUGHT US HERE ...

I MUST SAY TNAT I WAS CAUGHT TOTALLY OFF GUARD ...
FROM WHAT YOU WERE TELLING ME, HONOKA KUN, YOUR WOUNDS MUST'VE BEEN PARTICULARILY BAD.

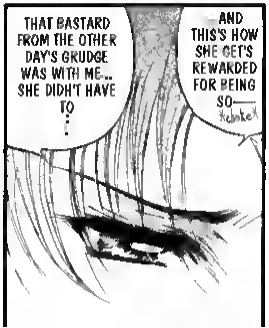
...AND ALMOST FROM THE MOMENT YOU ARRIVED, MIKAZUCHI-KUN, YOU WERE HEALING UP AT AN INCREDIBLE RATE... QUITE FRANKLY, I'M BAEELED AS TO HOW ...
AND YET, SAYA, WHO WASN'T HURT AT ALL, HASN'T GOTTEN ANY BETTER ...

NO WAY! YOU MEAN SHE'S BEEN LIKE THIS TH'WHOLE TIME ?! WHAT HAPPENED TO HER ?!
I WISH I KNEW
AS A DOCTOR, I'M COMPLETELY IN THE DARK AS TO WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER.

HER PULSE IS NORMAL AND SHE DOESN'T HAVE A FEVER
AND YET, SHE REMAINS IN THIS DEEP, COMATOSE-LIKE SLEEP

IT'S KINDA LIKE
LIKE SHE WAS WHEN WE FIRST MET HER ON TH'ISLAND, ISN'T, HONOKA ?

WE— WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HER DO WE? AND YET, SHE WAS ALWAYS HELPING US
YEAH, REALLY.


THAT BASTARD FROM THE OTHER DAY'S GRUDGE WAS WITH ME... SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO
AND THIS'S HOW SHE GET'S REWARDED FOR BEING SO—
tsuke

YOU DON'T DESERVE THIS ... I'm... I'M SORRY, SAYA ...
CREEE
THAT YOU, MIKAZUCHI KUN ? C'MON IN.

SORRY 'BOUT THIS... I KNOW IT'S LATE ...
IIII... KNOW I TOLD HONOKA I'D BE STAYIN HERE, BUuuuUT
...BUT YOU WANT TO GO TO YAGYÜ-WAKA-SENSEI'S* DÔJÔ TO STUDY, RIGHT ?
!!
HONOKA KUN TOLD ME ABOUT THE "MEETING" YOU HAD WITH HIM RECENTLY AT THAT INN. I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WISH TO HAVE HIM TRAIN YOU.
IT'S JUST .. WELL, I KINDA PROMISED HONOKA THAT ...
...WELL, THAT I'D FORGET ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED, Y'KNOW ?

*WAKA-SENSEI: *The title given to a "youthful sensei" in this case Yagyu is younger than Ujô, thus his relationship to Ujô-sensei is "waka-sensei"*

BUT THAT BASTARD SAID WE WERE GONNA FIGHT AGAIN, AND THAT WHEN WE DO, HE WAS GONNA -KILL- ME...AN' THE WAY I AM NOW, HE WILL
HE'S CAUSED TOO MUCH -PAIN AN' SADNESS- TO TH'PEOPLE I CARE ABOUT.. I CAN'T LET MY DEATH ADD TO THAT, I KNOW.

BUT I CAN'T SPEND MY LIFE -RUNNIN'- FROM TH'JERK, NEITHER !! I JUST.... I JUST CAN'T !!
SOONER OR LATER HE'S GONNA CATCH UP T'ME, AH' THEH WHAT ?! I CAH'T AVOID THIS, SO I GOTTA... I GOTTA...

THAAAAT'S PRETTY MUCH WHAT WE FIGURED YOU'D SAY, CHILD.
ku... KAZENE-SAN !
SO YOU THINK YOU'RE READY TO TAKE THE PLUNGE, DO YOU ?

!!

shrk
HWOOO
-R-R-R-
ψ.....

YOU COMING ?
JŪBEI ..... SAN !!

I HOPE MIKAZUCHI-KUN'S UP TO THIS.
EOR A YOUNGER SENSEI, YAGYÜ'S GOT A REP EOR PUTTING HIS STUDENTS THROUGH HELL.
mm. YES
BUT IF THE CHILD ISN'T UP TO THIS, THEN HE'LL BE SPENDING THE REST OF HIS LIEE BEING A WUPPED-ON LITTLE BITCH
>ah-heh-heh< BLUNT AS ALWAYS, EH, SIS ?
OH? NOW WHATEVER GAVE YOU THAT IDEA ?
I DIDN'T SAY THE CHILD +WASN'T+ UP TO THE TASK, DID I ?
PERSONALLY ?
I THINK THE BOY'S GOT GAME !!
◆to be continued◆

Chapter 11:
The Encroaching Shadows

YAAAA
SAAAYAAAA

THOU ART……
……THOU ART THE VOICE MOST GENTLE THAT OFT-SPAKE IN MINE DREAMS, ART THOU NOT ?
MINE VOICE
ONCE MORE THOU CANST HEAR IT ?
AYE, VERILY AN' MOST CLEARLY DO I.
'TIS BEEN MOST LONG .. THY VOICE, SO SWEET, SO LOW AN' GENTLE... NE'R AGAIN THOUGHT I'D PERCHANCE TO HEAR IT
SINCE BUT A CHILD, THY TENDER VOICE HAVE I LISTENED……
……YET, NE'R SEEN HATH I THE ONE WHO POSSESES SUCH A VOICE
SAYA……
FW
AAH
EH……?!

MY BELOVED SAYA…
THOU ART… THE OWHER OF THE THE VOICE ?
YOU ALONE ARE YOU… AYE, THE PRIZE OF ALL TOO-PRECIOUS YOU…
THOUGH WAITING SO BE HELL, YET TRIP NO FURTHER, OH SPIRIT OF LOVE, FOR JOURNEYS END IN LOVERS MEETING…

MY BELOVED Saya !
AH
n-NAY! I PRAY THEE...
BAM!
!!
SAYA ? WHY DOST THOU ?
I... I KNOW NOT !
MY MIND IS TROUBLED, LIKE A FOUNTAIN STIRRED
AND MY HEART
.. MY HEART IS CRACKED !
IT'S CRACKED !!

GASP !!
OH……
!……
SA
SAYA !!
LADY HONOKA ?!
OH, THANK GOODNESS, YOU'RE FINALLY AWAKE !
NOW YA FEELIN ?
YOU'RE NOT IN PAIN ANYWHERE ARE YOU ?
NAY ! AM MOST WELL, GRAMERCY
BUT, WHEREFORE BE THIS PLACE ?

MARRY 'FAITH ! ONE FULL TURN OF THE MOON ?!
I HAVE SLEPT for so long ?
YEAH! WE WERE ALL REALLY REALLY WORRIED !
BUT.. BUT NOW
SNIFF SNIFF
OH SAYA, I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE OKAY !!
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW SORRY I AM THAT YOU GOT MIXED UP IN THIS !!
PRAY, WHY DOST MY LADY SPEAK SUCH WORDS ?
FALL NOT A TEAR, I SAY ONE OF THEM RATES ALL THAT IS WON OR——
Gwrrrr
thppt
I I CRAVE THY PARDON
Kee-heee! NO-NO, MY BAD !
LEMME GO SEE IF I CAN T RUSTLE YOU UP SOME GRUB !

mmm—
UH-HUH
WELL, NOTHING -SEEMS- TO BE OUT OF THE ORDINARY
...WHICH IS YET -ANOTHER- MYSTERY FOR ME TO PONDER.
I'M PRETTY SURE SHE BELONGS TO A RELIGIOUS GROUP CALLED "KURISHITAN"
...WHO BELIEVE IN A SINGLE DEITY NAMED "DEUS THE ALMIGHTY", OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT
OH THAT REMINDS ME
I BELIEVE THIS IS YOURS
rustle
IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, YOU CONSIDER THIS A SACRED ITEM, YES ?
OH !

*KURISHITAN. The Japanese pronunciation of the word "Christian"

IF SOMEONE OTHER THAN MYSELF HAD DISCOVERED THAT, YOU COULD'VE FOUND YOURSELF IN A PECK OF TROUBLE !
I'D KEEP THAT OUT OF SIGHT, IF I WERE YOU
...
HOW HOW, THAT'S JUST A FRIENDLY BIT OF ADVICE. THAT'S ALL !
YOUR SECRET'S SAFE WITH ME !
THOU DOST KNOWEST ABOUT ...
WHO ART THOU ?
HEH-HEH ...
OH, JUST A LOCAL FORTUNE-TELLER-SLASH-TOWN-DOCTOR, THAT'S ALL.

NOTE Christianity was *outlawed* in Tokugawa Era Japan

OWWW I SCUFF !!
SHIT-SHIT-SHIT THAT HURTS !!
LANGUAGE !!
HONESTLY, CHILD! YOU REALLY DO NEED TO WORK ON CULTIVATING A MORE REFINED ATTITUDE! AND SETTLE DOWN! NO ONE WANTS TO FIND A PIECE OF +YOUR FINGER+ IN THEIR FOOD !!
UUUK SORRY 'BOUT THAT, KAZENE-SAN
OWEE !
I'LL TRY HARDER TA KEEP MY FAT FINGERS AN' MOUTH UNDER CONTROL
FUNNY... SOUNDS LIKE THE SAME THING I KEEP TELLING +YOU+ ABOUT SLINGING THAT KNIFE AROUND ON YOUR SHOULDER, SIS
WELL, HELLO! HOW'S OUR LATEST PATIENT TO JOIN THE LIVING DOING ?
IN GOOD HEALTH AN' GOOD SPIRITS, T'WOULD SEEM, GRAMERCY !
BE THERE, MAYHAP, SOMETHING I MIGHT DO TO ASSIST WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE VICTUALS ?

>chuckle<
HONOKA'S ALREADY MADE A "BLOOD SACRIFICE" BY CUTTING HER FINGER, SO SHE'S DONE FOR TONIGHT.
WHY DON'T WE JUST SAY DINNER'S ON ME AND CALL IT GOOD?
WHILE YOU'RE WAITING, WHY DON'T YOU TWO GO AHEAD AND TAKE YOUR BATHS ?
OH, JOY OF JOYS ! ♡
MY DEAREST SISTER IS MAKING DINNER TONIGHT ! OH HOW I'VE MISSED THE DELICATE FLAVOR OF HER SAVORY COOKING !
ANY PARTICULAR REASON FOR THE *HAPPY FACE,* DOC ?
er...ah... HO..
AHEM!
OH I GET IT! WELL, FINE THEN! I'LL MAKE SURE YOU GET AN EXTRA HELPING OF MY PIG-SLOP FOR BREAKFAST TOMORROW, UJIO-SENSEI !!
n-NOW NOW, HONOKA-KUN, LET'S NOT BE NASTY !
um.. PRAY PARD
I NOTICE OUR LORD MIKAZUCHI BE NOT IH ATTENDANCE .
PRAY, WITHER MIGHT HE BE ?

SHS
IN GOOD SOOTH
OUR GOOD LORD MIKAZUCHI HATH BUGUN A JOURNEY TO MOST WELL IMPROVE UPON HIS SKILLS WITH THE BLADE ?
PLMF...
SWP...
YEAH, WHEN I GOT UP THIS MORNING TH LI'L CREEP HAD ALREADY BOOKED
JEEZ, HE CAN BE SO DARN STUBBORN !
AN' HERE I WAS ALL WORRIED WHETHER HE HAD HEALED-UP ALL TH WAY, TOO
LEFT HE NOT A LETTER WITH PARTING WORDS OF ANON ?
LIKE HE'S CONSIDERATE ENOUGH (LET ALONE SMART ENOUGH) TA DO THAT ?!
EVEN SO.....

...I'LL WAIT FOR HIM.....
I KNOW IT SOUNDS KINNA CORNBALL, BUT I BELIEVE IN NIM .. SO I'LL JUST STAY RIGHT HERE AN WAIT FOR HIM TA GET BACK.
I DUNNO WHY OR WHEN IT HAPPENED, BUT—WELL. I FEEL WARM-N GOOD WHEN I THINK ABOUT HIM.
Hh.. I THINK I'M KINNA— fallin' in love with'im.....
AH MY LADY NONOKA

CHOK
CHOK
CHOK
CHOK
FWSH
FWSH
ZSH
ZSH
ONE LITTLE MOUSE
SIP
...TWO LITTLE MICE .. AND NOW THREE
AN, THAT SILLY, NAIVE HONOKA— WHEN SHE SAID SAYA WAS "MYSTERIOUS", SHE DIDN'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT
TRAIPSING AROUND THE COUNTRYSIDE IN THE COMPANY OF A *KURISHITAN*— IF SHE'D HAVE BEEN CAUGHT
WELL, TO SAY SHE'D HAVE BEEN IN TROUBLE WOULD BE A +GROSS+ UNDERSTATEMENT

ZPA—SH
MY LADY
DOST THOU PERCHAHCE RECALL THE YOUHG BASE KHAVE NAMED -HOKUTO- ?
IH THE HEAT OF HIS BATTLE WITH OUR LORD MIKAZUCHI, THE ROGUE DOTH SPAKE MOST URGENTLY ABOUT THY "AWAKENING"
MY WHO?
SORRY SAYA, I WAS PRETTY OUT OF IT AFTER HE CUT ME
THIS "AWAKEHIHG" 'TIS MY BELIEF THAT IF OUR LORD IS TO WIN THE DAY O'ER THE VILLIAH
THY POWYRE, MY LADY, AND THINE ALONE, T WOULD BE REQUIRED.
"MY"...? WHOA, HEY, HEWS FLASH, SAYA I
THE OHLY GIRLFRIEND HERE WHO CAN PULL A SWORD FROM HER CUT IS "THOU", HOT ME !!
I DO HOT PRETEHD TO MOST UNDERSTAND WELL THE MEANIHG MYSELF
YET EVERY "WHY" HATH A "WHERE-FORE"

THIS GILDED SERPENT, HOKUTO, WHEN FIRST HE BRANDISHED HIS SACRED BLADE
METHINKS T'WOULD SEEM BELIKE A SWORD MOST UNREMARKABLE FROM JAPAN .. NOT UNTIL THE VILLIAN DID INCORPORATE IT WITH A SUMMONED SPIRIT DID THE BLADE BECOME "HOLY"

AND, MY LADY, AS STRUCK THOU LAY, THE VILLIAN NAMED THEE "FAMILIAR" TO OUR LORD MIKAZUCHI.

REMEMBEREST THOU, MY LADY, THE MAIDEN NAMED "SEIRAN" ?
BELIEVETH I DO, T'WAS SHE WHO ACTED AS INTERMEDIARY AN CONDUIT TO THE SPIRIT POWYRE BY WHICH TRANSFORMED WAS THE VILLIAN'S BLADE

...

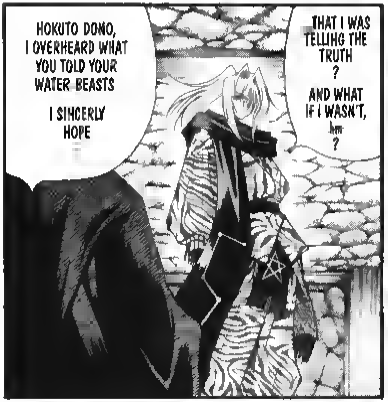
SO... YOU'RE SAYING THE PERSON WHO S S POSTA SUMMON MIKAZUCHI S GUARDIAN SPIRIT
.. AN TRANSFORM HIS SWORD INTO A NEW FUTSUNO-MITAMA, IS.... .....me?
BUT... HOW TH HECK'M I S POSTA DO THAT ?!
FORGIVE ME, MY LADY, I KNOW NOT
YET LEARN ST THOU MUST, THIS METHOD OF SUMMONING
FOR THOUGH OUR LORD MIGHT MASTER THE DISCIPLINES OF THE SWORD, FOR THOUGH HE STANDETH CONFIDENT AGAINST THE WORLD IN ARMS
...WHEN NEXT MEET OUR LORD MIKAZUCHI AND THE VILLIAN HOKUTO
...UPON OUR LORD'S SWORD SITS NO VICTORY, SAVE BUT DEATH'S DISHONORABLE ONE

KTAK
KTAK
TOK
KTAK
KTAK
TOK
TOK
BLUP
BLUP
PLSH
ASH
A
A
SP

why ssss I live and breath, if it isssn't wassster hokuto !!
CHUCKLE CHORTLE
STRUT STRUT
welcome home wassster ! i do hope all went ssss planned
ssso, wassster hokuto
did that RUNT wikazzzwchi sssqueal like a girl when you——
schuckle~ HE LIVES ……
FOR THE MOMENT
my word, did he jussst sssay that the boy wasss ssstill alive ?
I'm quite sssure he jussst did ! oh dear oh dear oh dear !!
wassster, don't tell ussss the puny human wasss too much for you !!
SILENCE!! HOW DARE YOU SLIME SUGGEST——

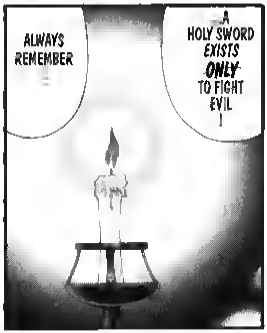
I DIDN'T KILL THE WORM BECAUSE HE STILL CAN'T SUMMON FUTSUNO-MITAMA.
UNTIL NE LEARNS HOW TO DO THAT FIGHTING HIM'S A PRETTY POINTLESS THING, WOULDN'T YOU SAY ?
KREEE
oh my, my, my, couldn't ussse futsssuno-mitama ?
are you quite sssure of that, massster ?
not to contradict you, massster, but what of the sssword the lad usssed to kill our poor comrade ?
yesss, that sssword came from the puny body of a girl, jussst asss you sssaid it would, ssso it must've been——
KA
TWP
uh... massster hokuto ?

TCHAK TCHAK
PSSSSHHOO
HOKUTO... HAVE I EVER TOLD YOU HOW MUCH I HATE THIS PLACE ?
DID WE REALLY HAVE TO COME BACK HERE ?
YOU KNOW WE HAVE TO COME BACK HERE EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, SEIRAH LEARN TO MAKE THE BEST OF IT. WHY DON'T YOU ?
I KNOW THAT, BUT EVEH SO
...I still -hate- this place
SAY, HOKUTO... MAYBE WE COULD..
(you know...)
AHD WHAT WOULD OUR "GUEST" THINK ? COME HE'S WAITING
"GUEST" ?!

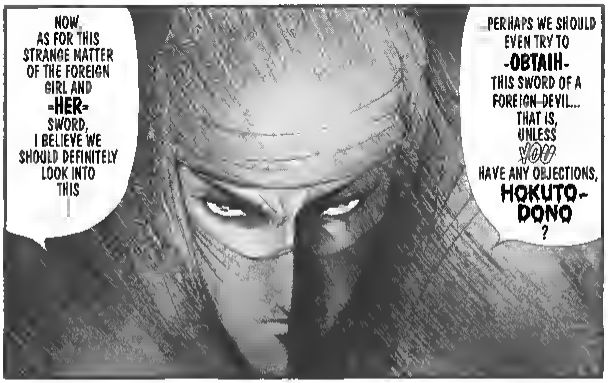

HOKUTO DONO, I OVERHEARD WHAT YOU TOLD YOUR WATER BEASTS
I SINCERLY HOPE
THAT I WAS TELLING THE TRUTH ?
AND WHAT IF I WASN'T, hm ?

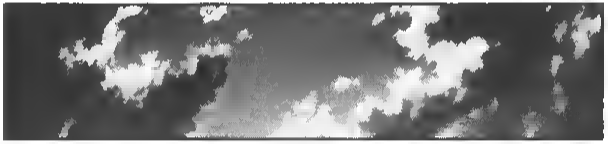
D'YOU REALLY THINK I CARE WHAT KIND OF -THREATS- COME FROM THE MOUTH OF AN OLD GEEZER LIKE YOU ?

AND YOU WOULD DO WELL TO WATCH YOUR MOUTH BOY !

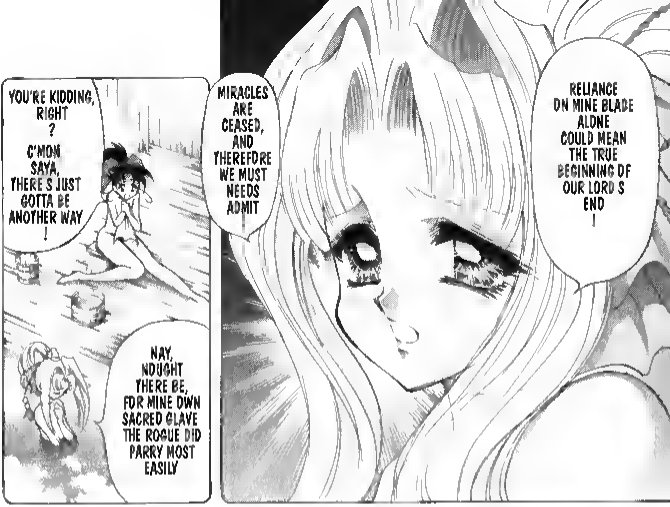

ALWAYS REMEMBER
A HOLY SWORD EXISTS ONLY TO FIGHT EVIL !

IT DOES NOT EXIST TO BE USED TO SETTLE YOUR LITTLE GRUDGES IS THAT CLEAR HOKUTO-DONO ?
huh-huh... "LITTLE GRUDGES"... LIKE -YOU'RE- ONE TO TALK, OLD MAN.


NOW, AS FOR THIS STRANGE MATTER OF THE FOREIGN GIRL AND -HER- SWORD, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD DEFINITELY LOOK INTO THIS
PERHAPS WE SHOULD EVEN TRY TO -OBTAIN- THIS SWORD OF A FOREIGN-DEVIL... THAT IS, UNLESS YOU HAVE ANY OBJECTIONS, HOKUTO-DONO ?



SO NO MATTER HOW MUCH OR HOW HARD MIKAZUCHI TRAINS
IT AIN'T GONNA BE ENOUGH T BEAT THAT HOKUTO GUY


YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT ?
C'MON SAYA, THERE'S JUST GOTTA BE ANOTHER WAY !
NAY, NOUGHT THERE BE, FOR MINE OWN SACRED GLAVE THE ROGUE DID PARRY MOST EASILY
MIRACLES ARE CEASED, AND THEREFORE WE MUST NEEDS ADMIT
RELIANCE ON MINE BLADE ALONE COULD MEAN THE TRUE BEGINNING OF OUR LORD'S END !

HENCEFORTH, THE ONLY SOUL WHO HATH THE POWYRE TO PROTECT OUR LORD

T'WOULD BE
-THYSELF-
MY GENTLE-LADY, AND NO OTHER

◆to be continued◆

Chapter 12

The Eye Of Jubei

KAK
KA
KOK
GHIEE
HHH!!

WHAT HAVE I BEEN TELLING YOU OVER AND OVER ?!
FOCUS !! ALWAYS FOCUS !!
IF YOU CAN'T STAY FOCUSED ON YOUR OPPONENT, YOU WILL -NEVER- BE ABLE TO READ HIS MOVES !
HA!!
ENOUGH DAWDLING !! AGAIN !!
HA!!
ZHA
KCHAK
AHH
YOUR STROKES NEED TO BE MORE -PRECISE- !
WILD SWINGING IS -USELESS- AND THEREFORE A PURE WASTE OF ENERGY !
KK
TOK
HA!!

HWARRGH !!
KOK
KA KLAK KAK
HO
KA
SLOPPY !!
GK !!
KWK
WAK

KRAK
GAKK !!
SPLAT
OKAY, THAT'S ENOUGH SPARRING FOR TODAY.
wah..... WATER.....
KK
KFF!
KFF!

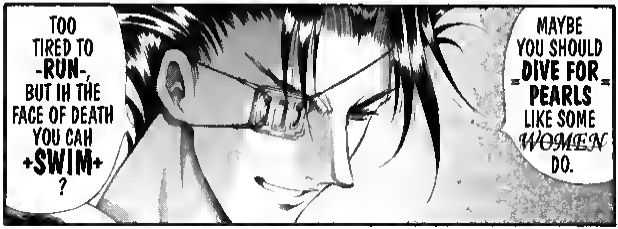
TIME NOW TO WORK ON BUILDING UP YOUR ENDURANCE.
THE SUMMIT AND BACK...
...FIVE TIMES...
NOW !
first : c'n i have some :
I SAID, MOVE IT !
need water first
QUIT BEING SUCH A SPOILED, -LAZY- BRAT !!
UHAK !!

ugh
ugh
ugh
WELL ?
ARE YOU GOING TO RUN OR NOT ?
SEEMS THERE'S NO CHOICE THEN, IS THERE ?
FINE.

KAAK
AK !!
YOU WANT WATER ?
OKAY ! I'LL -GIVE- YOU WATER
ugh
AHHH !!

PWEE
OWAHH !!
SPASH!
AAAAK
RAAAA
R
GLRG GLRG
GLUG
HWLLK !!
KAKH !!
RRR
RRR

POOSH
SPLASH
SLZZ
Tch
!
KOFF
KAFF


TOO TIRED TO -RUN-, BUT IH THE FACE OF DEATH YOU CAH +SWIM+ ?
MAYBE YOU SHOULD =DIVE FOR PEARLS= LIKE SOME WOMEN DO.

NOT A BAD IDEA, SINCE IT SEEMS ALL THAT TALK ABOUT WANTING TO TRAIN WAS JUST *LIP SERVICE*, WASN'T IT ?
NO !
IT AIN'T LIKE THAT ! REALLY ! !.....!...

"...WANNA BE STRONG"
.....
hmmm !

GET THIS THROUGH THAT STONE YOU CALL A BRAIN NOW. TO DEFEND YOURSELF AGAINST A POWERFUL FOE, YOU MUST PUSH YOURSELF TO THE VERY LIMITS OF YOUR ENDURANCE !
BUT !
!!
IF YOU EVER HOPE TO -PROTECT- THE ONES YOU CARE ABOUT, YOU MUST PUSH YOURSELF BEYOND THOSE LIMITS !
THAT'S BECAUSE DEFENDING -YOURSELF- IS EASY, BUT IN ORDER TO PROTECT +OTHERS+
YOU MUST SEE PAST YOURSELF, MIKAZUCHI !!

HE'S RIGHT... THIS ISN'T ABOUT DEFEATING SOME POWERFUL ENEMY
THIS'S ABOUT PROTECTING THE ONES I CARE ABOUT THE MOST
HONOKA! SAYA!
I SWEAR I'LL... I'LL...
OOO RARRRRRGH !!

CLA
CLAAP
CLAAP
HAA
!!
YOU SURE THAT'S HOW SHE DID IT ?
AYE, MOST DELIKE HER MOVEMENTS BE THINE OWN, MY LADY.
WELL, I BEEN DOIN THIS CRAP ALL MORNIN' .....
AN' I AIN'T FELT NOTHIN', YET .....
HMMMM MAYHAP WE HAVE O ERLOOKED SOMETHING ?
A POINT MOST CRUCIAL AN NECESSARY FOR THE COMPLETION OF TH RITUAL, P'RAPS ?

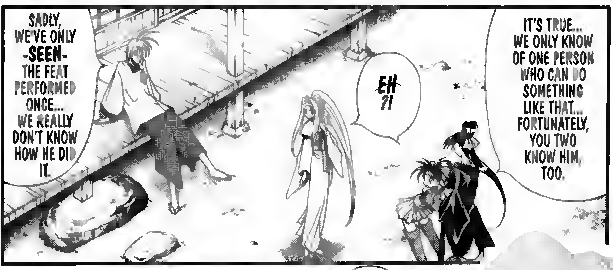
huuuu...
WHAT'S -DIFFERENT- FROM HOW THAT SEIRAN-CHICK DID IT AN' HOW I'M TRYNNA DO IT ?
!
OF COURSE! THAT'S GOTTA BE IT !
THAT'S STILL NOT ENOUGH !
A LITTLE MORE, SAYA !!
AYE, MY LADY !!
sigh I MUST BE GOING SENILE.....
WHAT TH'HECK COULD I HAVE DONE WITH IT ?
HEY, YOU GUYS !
I'M CAN'T FIND MY HAKAMA[1] ..... DID I LEAVE IT HANGING BACK——
GUK !!
[1]HAKAMA- A skirt-like undergarment worn by men in feudal Japan.

GOD'S HOLY TROUSERS !!
FLUT
FLUT
UJŌ'S HAKAMA WORN ROLLED-UP
PWAP PWAP
EEEEEE! UJŌ-SENSEI, YOU
!!
w-WHAAAT ?! NO! WAIT! !...!...!... ???
-mmmf-
I'VE SEEN SOME ROYALLY ASININE THINGS IN MY TIME, BUT YOU TWO JUST TOPPED THE LIST !
KAZENE-SAN !!

HAST THOU BEEN A-WATCHING IN SECRET ALL THIS TIME ?
shink SAVED !!
tho-tho THAT'S REALLY MEAN, SPYIN' ON US LIKE THAT !
titter SORRY, DEAR !
chuckle
YOU TWO SOUNDED SO -SERIOUS- ABOUT CREATING THIS "HOLY SWORD"
I JUST DIDN'T HAVE THE HEART TO INTERRUPT YOUR FUN.
YOU'RE DARN RIGHT WE'RE SERIOUS !
WE'RE TRYNNA DO SOMETHIN IMPORTANT HERE— LIKE - LIFE OR DEATH - IMPORTANT !
AWWW! WHO'M I KIDDIN' ? YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME EVEN IF I TOLDJA .
hoo-hoo-hoo! NOW, NOW, SIMMER DOWN, CHILD !
bop!
I'VE SEEN ENOUGH IN MY LIFE TO BELIEVE THAT MANY MYSTERIOUS THINGS AND UNUSUAL ABILITIES EXIST IN THIS WORLD
LIKE ……

...THE ABILITY TO INFUSE AN ORDINARY BLADE WITH A GUARDIAN SPIRIT, THUS CREATING A "HOLY SWORD OF POWER"
FOR EXAMPLE.
!!
MARRY I FAITH... MY NOBLE MADAM KAZENE
THOU DOST KNOW'ST OF THE METHOD TO CALL SPIRITS OF HEALTH FROM THE VAST DEEP ?!
PLEASE, KAZENE-SAN, SHOW ME HOW! I GOTTA KNOW! I REALLY, REALLY GOTTA KNOW !!
KLTCH

IF I CAN'T LEARN HOW T'DO THIS, MIKAZUCHI'S GONNA.....
MIKAZUCHI.....
...HE ~~NEEDS~~ ME T'KNOW HOW T'DO THIS !!


SADLY, WE'VE ONLY -SEEN- THE FEAT PERFORMED ONCE... WE REALLY DON'T KNOW HOW HE DID IT.
EH ?!
IT'S TRUE... WE ONLY KNOW OF ONE PERSON WHO CAN DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT... FORTUNATELY, YOU TWO KNOW HIM, TOO.

...A PERSON WITH WHOM WE ARE MOST ACQUAINTED WITH ?
WHO?! WHO IZZIT ?! TELL'IM I DON'T CARE WHAT IT TAKES, I JUST GOTTA LEARN THIS !

chuckle. I'M SURE HE WOULD FIND YOUR ATTITUDE ADMIRABLE
.....
...BUT I'M AFRAID HE'S SOMEWHAT -UNAVAILABLE-
YOU SEE HE'S TRAINING MIKAZUCHI

THAT'S RIGHT, CHILD ! THE ONE WHO CAN TEACH YOU WHAT YOU WISH TO KNOW IS NONE OTHER THAN = JÜBEI = = YAGYÜ = !!
POP
POP
KRACKLE
um……
JÜBEI……SAN ?
>sigh<
WHAT IS IT ?
uh, I MEAN, MASTER JÜBEI !
SNAP
KRACKLE
CAN I… ASK YOU A QUESTION ?
POP
POP

I'VE BEEN WONDERIN'.....
um... BACK WHEN WE FIRST MET AT THAT INN, YOU OFFERED TO TRAIN ME.....
I MEAN, YOU DIDN'T KNOW ME OR NOTHIN', BUT YOU STILL DID... SO, HOW COME.....?

GLARE
OOP.....

BECAUSE I **DID**
DON'T ASK STUPID QUESTIONS!

oh, uh, HAI.....
GLOM

GEEZ WE BEEN OUT HERE NEARLY A MONTH
AN' HE **-STILL-** TALKS T'ME LIKE I'M A LI'L KID
munCh

* HEH *
YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW WHY? BECAUSE MY **-EYE-** TOLD ME TO

.....HUH?!

APPARENTLY, THIS -EYE- SEEMS TO BE RATHER FOND OF YOU.
WAIT... YOU MEAN THERE'S STILL AN EYE UNDER THAT PATCH ?
BUT WHAT'S THAT GOTTA WITH ... ?
SOMEDAY, SOON [redacted] YOU'LL UNDERSTAND ...
.....

AHHHHH!♡ BLISS, BLISS AND JOY !!
'S'LIKE WAKIN' UP FROM A BAD DREAM TO A SUNNY DAY !
THOU SHALT HAVE THE FORM AND FAVOUR WITH WHICH TO PROTECT OUR LORD MIKAZUCHI !
FOR SOON HOW -
GLAD TIDINGS INDEED, MY LADY !
I MEAN, WHO'D A-THUNK ♡JUBEI-SAN♡ OF ALL PEOPLE WOULD KNOW HOW T'STICK A GUARDIAN GHOST TO A SWORD ?!
SPLASH
'SWOOSH
HECK-YEAH I WILL !
AN' IT'S ALL THANKS T'YOU, SAYA! ♡

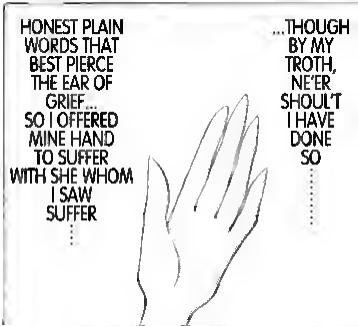
YEAHHHH
THA'FELT GRRRREAT !!
MAAAAN, I'M GONNA SLEEP LIKE A STONE T NIGHT!
MY LADY HONOKA ?
MM ?! WHUTUP, "M'LADY" SAYA ?
I'FAITH MOST FLUSHED FROM OUR BATH AM I!
THE MOON SHINES BRIGHT, SUCH A NIGHT AS THIS WHEN THE SWEET WIND DOTH GENTLY KISS THE TREES
FWUPP!
FWUP
T'WOULD DO ME MOST MARVELOUS GOOD TO AMBLE AMONG DIANA'S FORESTERS
THAT MEANS YOU'RE GOIN' FOR A WALK, RIGHT ?
YOU OKAY? I COULD GO WITH YOU IF YOU—
NAY, BE NOT AFRAID OF SHADOWS, I SHALL TO OUR CHAMBERS MOST SHORTLY ENOW RETURN !
HUH? WELL, IF YOU SAY SO !

KNCH

IN GOOD SOOTH, SINCE DRAWING OUT OUR MILES AND MILES TOGETHER
THE INWARD SERVICE OF THE MINDS AND SOULS OF MY LORD AND LADY HATH GROWN WIDE WITHAL

WHEN FIRST WE MET
MOST BELIKE A FRIGHTENED PUPPY WAST THE LADY HONOKA

CAN'T YOU SEE?! I'VE ALWAYS BEEN WITH MY MOTHER AND FATHER!
WHO WHO'S GONNA TAKE CARE OF THEIR GRAVES IF I LEAVE?!


HONEST PLAIN WORDS THAT BEST PIERCE THE EAR OF GRIEF... SO I OFFERED MINE HAND TO SUFFER WITH SHE WHOM I SAW SUFFER
...THOUGH BY MY TROTH, NE'ER SHOULT I HAVE DONE SO

'TIS FORBIDDEN FOR A PERSON TO MAKE USE OF MINE POWYRE
LET ALONE FOR A PERSON TO RECEIVE IT
SINCE BIRTH, DIVINITY HATH SHAPED MINE ENDS, ROUGH-HEW THEM HOW I WOULT
TO BEAR THE POWYRE OF THE MOST HOLY OF HOLIEST BLADES !!
'TIS THE LODESTONE THAT I ALONE WAST CHOSEN TO CARRY

BUT VERY SOON NOW, MY LORD AND LADY SHALL NO LONGER REQUIRE THE SERVICES OF MINE HOLY GLAIVE
AND IN FAR, FAR TOO SHORT A SEASON

THE TIME TO BID FARE THEE WELL SHALL FALL UPON US MOST MERCILESS

AND I SHALT PERFORCE TO CONTINUE MINE PILGRIMAGE
ALONE

BUT
STILL

THOUGH KNOW'ST I 'TIS MOST RIGHT AN' PROPER
I.... I..... OH, FIE UPON IT !!

?!
THERE YOU ARE !
GRAB
heh heh heh ...
YOU MADE THIS VERY EASY FOR US BY COMING OUT HERE ALONE, EH ?
HAHAHA !!
"WHY'RE WE HERE?" YOU ASK ? BECAUSE -HOKUTO-DONO- HAS ASKED US .
...TO CHECK OUT THAT PRETTY LITTLE BODY OF YOURS !

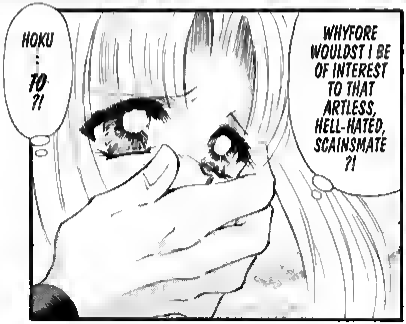
◆TO BE CONTINUED◆

Chapter 13:
Razene Of The Mystik Monk's
School Of Sorcery

GEE, SAYA SURE IS TAKING HER SWEET TIME WITH HER WALK.....
WONDER WHAT'S KEEPING HER?
STILL.....
SAYA SEEMS TO BE ACTIN' MORE AN' MORE... SAD, LATELY.....
WONDER IF SOMETHING'S BOTHERIN' HER?
'BE NICE IF I COULD DO SOMETHIN' TA CHEER HER UP.....

TONIGHT I'VE PRESCRIBED WARABI MOCHI FOR MY PATIENTS !
REEEALLY?! WARABI MOCHI ?! ♡
OH! SHE WENT FOR A LI'L WALK... SHE SAID SHE'D BE BACK SOON ……
AH, I SEE. WELL, WHEN SHE GETS BACK, TELL HER SUPPER'S READY
HUH? YOU'RE OUT HERE BY YOURSELF? WHERE'S SAYA-KUN ?
HYEAH, RIGHT! LIKE A WHINER LIKE ME'S GOT ANY ROOM TA TALK !! R.I.L.L.Y
A-H HEH HEH !
COME, CHILDREH! SLEEPING BEFORE EATING WILL MAKE YOU FAT, YOU KNOW !
I WORKED HARD TO MAKE——
GASP !
U.U.O !
RIGHT! I SENSE IT, TOO !
HUH? WH.AT'S WRONG? WHY'RE YOU TWO ACTIN'——

heh heh heh
YOU MADE THIS VERY EASY FOR US BY COMING OUT HERE ALONE, EH ?
HMMF !!
"WHY'RE WE HERE?"
BECAUSE HOKUTO-DONO ASKED US TO !


HOKU ... TO ?!
WHYFORE WOULDST I BE OF INTEREST TO THAT ARTLESS, HELL-HATED, SCAINSMATE ?!

NE ALSO ASKED US TO CHECK OUT ...

KAH
MMMGH !!
THIS PRETTY LITTLE BODY OF YOURS !!

SPAK
GWAHHH !!
WHAT ?!
THUD
?!
FWSH

plip
plip
plip
HRN
HRN
HRN
ZICH
OOO-WHA-WHA-WHAT'S THAT THING ?!

IT'S A MONSTER !!
STAND YOUR GROUND !!
HAA !
BE THIS... NECRO MANCY !!
SOMEONE'S CASTING SOME CHEAP TRICK... BUT WHERE ?!
AH-HAH !!
THERE YOU ARE !!
VSH
SHOOM
FWP!
SPAK

!!
chuckle
FOR SHAME! ALL OF YOU BIG BRUTES FOR -ONE- SMALL GIRL?
LOOKS LIKE WE'LL HAVE TO TEACH YOU BOYS HOW TO PLAY FAIR!

OKAY, STORM'S GALE AND FRESH BREEZE
KA KLAK
SIC 'EM !!
VSH
AHOOOO

OOO-
WAHHH
RRR
SWA
SLA
GYHK
!!
WHAT
?!
HOW
?!
I'D REALLY APPRECIATE IT IF YOU'D GIVE ME MY PATIENT BACK, NOW.
SWP
HRRRM
HGNN
BAWOOO
KT

SHA
KING
SLASH
OOO GYAA AAAA AAAH !!
TRIP
EEEEE !!
DASH

EH ?!
FWM
P
TM
ZTCH
!

KT !
RETREAT !!
~~RETREAT~~ !!
VWSH
ARRG! WAIT, YOU !!
BLOODY HELL! THEY GOT AWAY !
YOU'RE NOT HURT, ARE YOU, SAYA-KUN ?
nuh ! NAY
MOST HUMBLY AN' GRATEFULLY DO I THAHK YE . . .
YET.. PRAYTELL, HOW DID YE KNOW—
SHH! SOUHDS LIKE ONE MORE'S COMING !
EH ?!

HAAAAF
THERE YOU GUYS ARE !!
HONOKA ?
AW, GEE WHIZ... IT WAS +ONLY+ HONOKA-KUN .....
WNERE... WHEREZA FIRE AT ?
YOU...YOU TWO RAN OFF LIKE SUMMUN WAS .. WAS STEALIN' YOUR DINNER OR SUMPEN .....
HEF
HEF
SO WHAT'S GOIN' ..... ehhn ?
TA TA TA...

NEEEEEK!
muh-muh-muh
MONSTERS
!!

NOW-NOW, CHILD, SIMMER DOWN
AND PLEASE... DON'T CALL MY DARLING ~PETS~ "MOHSTERS".
PUH
pets ?

STORM'S GALE!
FRESH BREEZE!
HOME, BOYS! TIME TO REST!
SHWOOSH
chuckle
THAT'S RIGHT.
.....
GOODWOMAN KAZENE, PRAY, WHAT MANNER OF SORCERY BE THIS?
I'M A DECENDANT OF A "FULL MOON SCHOOL"1 GRADUATE WHO HANDED DOWN MANY SECRET TECHNIQUES SHE LEARNED FROM "THE MYSTIC MONK"2
HER NAME WAS KUOAGIZUNE, AND HER MAGICAL BEASTS WERE MY "PLAYMATES".

1- A school from the "Warring States" period of Japan
Daimyo Shingen Takada, who won several early battles, got many of his *kunoichi (female ninjas)* from this school

2- His real name was **Shūgen**: a high-ranking monk at the school

SO NOW YOU KNOW WHY WE DON'T HAVE ANY DIFFICULTY IN BELIEVING IN MYSTERIOUS WHAT-NOTS AND MYSTIC WHOZITS !
IN GOOD SOOTH, 'TIS MOST MARVELOUS SO, YET PRAY TELL, HOW DID YE KNOW SOME DEED MOST FOUL DID RISE ?
OH, THAT? WELL
'TWAS HE THAT.....
EH ?
WE GOT A WARNING FROM OUR GUARD DOG !
SAYA, MEET STORM-WIND !
I DO SO THANK THEE ..
.....OH HOBLE STORM-WIND !
SLURK
EEP !

WHAT DID HE MEAN WITH THAT "MY PATCHED EYE LIKES YOU" STUFF ?
WE'RE HERE.
WMP
SMACK !
WELL? WHAT'RE YOU WAITING FOR ? GO IN.
OH. uh, HAI !
AN' THEN THERE'S THIS "PASS/FAIL TEST" THING ....

AS I SAID, YOU GET TO TAKE A -TEST- TODAY, MIKAZUCHI.
A CAVE ?
MAYBE WE'RE GONNA STUDY CLOSE-QUARTER FIGHTING TECHNIQUES OR SOMETHIN' ……?

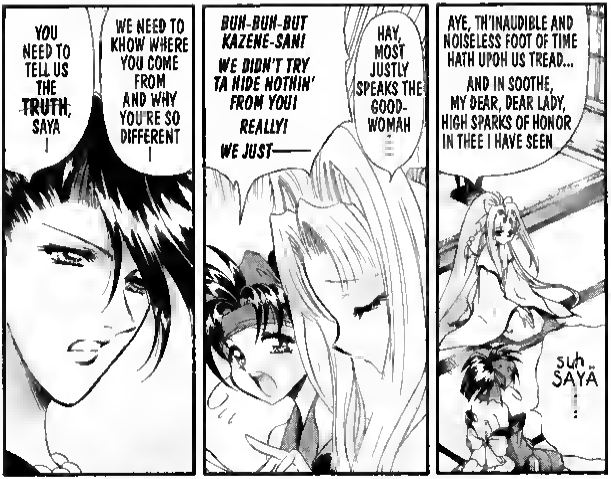
THE CHALLENGE BEFORE YOU IS TO STAY IN THIS CAVE FOR HALF-A-DAY... AND BELIEVE ME
...YOU'RE GOING TO NEED EVERY BIT OF TRAINING YOU'VE HAD UP UNTIL NOW TO DO IT.

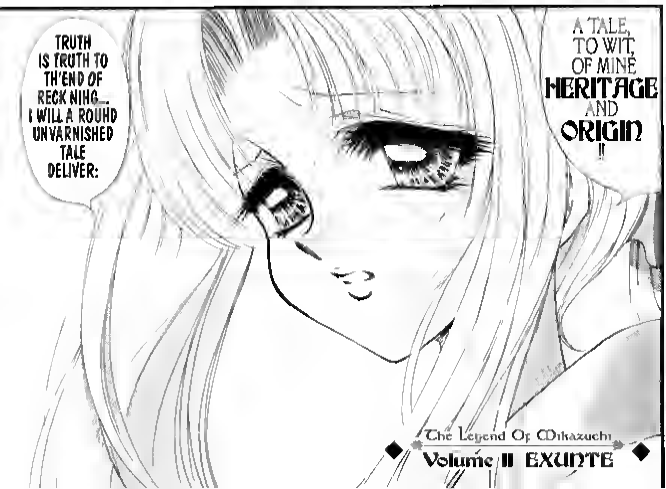
YOU'RE KIDDIN', RIGHT ?
C'MON, I AIN'T NO LI'L KID WHO'S AFRAID OF TH'——
dark ?
MASTER !?
HUH ? WHA——

TH'WAY OUT...
IT'S GONE !!
BUT I JUST WALKED THROUGH IT!
HOW TH'HELL COULD IT BE GONE ?!
kuh-kuh-kuh.
BECAUSSSE THISSS ISSS MEETLIMADO: THE LAND OF THE DEAD !
THAT... THAT DIDN'T SOUND LIKE MASTER JUDEI !!
SHOW YOURSELF !!
NARAKU JIGOKU YOMI. THESSSE ARE SSSOME OF THE NAMESSS ATTRIBUTED TO THISSS PLACCCE
CALL IT WHAT WHAT YOU WISHHH IT ISSS THE LAND FROM WHENCCCE ALL MONSSSTERSSS OF THE WORLD RESSSIDE
MMRAA
GRWL
SSSS
HISSSS
AND FOR THE NEXXXT HALF-DAY ~YOU~ SHHHALL RESSSIDE HERE, TOO
MIKAZZZUCHI !
HUH ?!
GRWL
SSSS

SO YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHY THOSE GUYS ATTACKED YOU LAST NIGHT ?
NAY, I KNOW NOT ……
..THAT MIHE -BODY-, TO HER OWH WORTH, SHE SHALL BE PRIZED BY THE EVIL LORD HOKUTO !
. BUT WORDS MOST STRAHGE AH' DISTURBIHG DID SPEAK THE BRIGANDS :
HOKUTO ?!
YOU MEAN THE SAME GUY WHO SWORE HE'D COME BACK TO KILL——?
MIKAZUCHI'S GONE SO THE RAT BASTARD GOES AFTER SAYA ?!
THAT LOW-LIFE, SNEAKY, SUNNUVVA——
KEE ?!
BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.
WHY WOULD HE BE IHTERESTED IH HER -BODY- WHEH HE'S MADE IT CLEAR HIS GOAL IS TO DEFEAT MIKAZUCHI ?

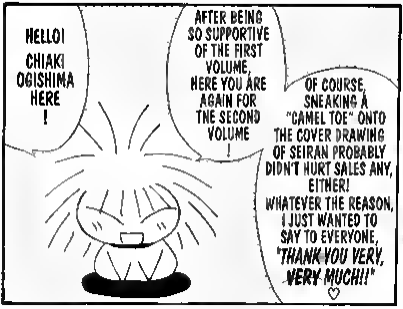
I'M THINKING THAT THERE'S -SOMEONE ELSE- INVOLVED HERE... SOMEONE WHO HAS A KEEN INTEREST IN SOME ABILITY THAT SAYA SEEMS TO HAVE.
HUH? YOU DON'T THINK HOKUTO'S BEHIND THIS?
BUT WHO ELSE COULD BE INTERESTED IN SAYA, LET ALONE EVEN KNOW ABOUT HER?
SOMEONE KNOWS ABOUT HER.....
AND THAT SOMEONE ALSO KNOWS SHE HAS SOME ABILITY THAT YOU TWO HAVE BEEN KEEPING FROM US.
oh.....
LOOK, UP UNTIL NOW, WE'VE RESPECTED YOUR PRIVACY IN THIS MATTER, SAYA.
BUT MIKAZUCHI ASKED US TO PROTECT YOU AND WE CAN'T DO THAT EFFECTIVELY IF WE DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS WE'RE UP AGAINST.....
...MORE SPECIFICALLY, -WHY- IT IS THAT THEY'RE INTERESTED IN YOU!

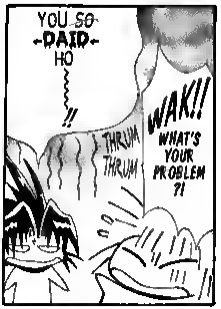

YOU NEED TO TELL US THE TRUTH, SAYA!
WE NEED TO KHOW WHERE YOU COME FROM AND WHY YOU'RE SO DIFFERENT!
BUH-BUH-BUT KAZENE-SAN! WE DIDN'T TRY TA HIDE HOTHIN' FROM YOU! REALLY! WE JUST——
HAY, MOST JUSTLY SPEAKS THE GOOD-WOMAH...
AYE, TH'INAUDIBLE AND NOISELESS FOOT OF TIME HATH UPOH US TREAD... AND IN SOOTHE, MY DEAR, DEAR LADY, HIGH SPARKS OF HONOR IN THEE I HAVE SEEN
SUH SAYA...!


TRUTH IS TRUTH TO TH'END OF RECK NING... I WILL A ROUHD UNVARNISHED TALE DELIVER:
A TALE, TO WIT, OF MINE HERITAGE AND ORIGIN!!
The Legend Of Chikazuchi
Volume II EXUNTE

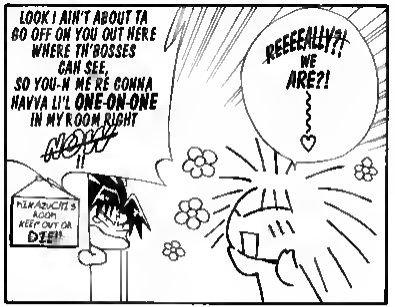
おまけまんが
OMAKE MANGA

THAT BASTICH, MIKAZUCHI...2

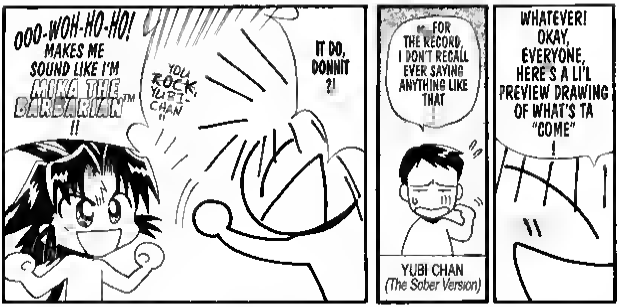

HELLO! CHIAKI OGISHIMA HERE!
AFTER BEING SO SUPPORTIVE OF THE FIRST VOLUME, HERE YOU ARE AGAIN FOR THE SECOND VOLUME!
OF COURSE, SNEAKING A "CAMEL TOE" ONTO THE COVER DRAWING OF SEIRAN PROBABLY DIDN'T HURT SALES ANY, EITHER!
WHATEVER THE REASON, I JUST WANTED TO SAY TO EVERYONE, "THANK YOU VERY, VERY MUCH!!"

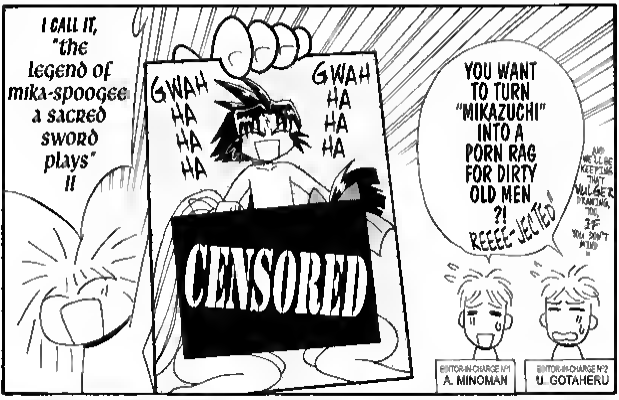


YOU MY PRO'LEM, BITCH!
BACK IN VOLUME ONE, YOU PROMISED TA MAKE ME LOOK COOOOOL, REMEMBER?!
AN' INSTEAD YOU STICK ME ON TH'GODDAMN BACK COVER?
WAZZUP WI'DAT?!


LOOK! AIN'T ABOUT TA GO OFF ON YOU OUT HERE WHERE TH'BOSSES CAN SEE, SO YOU-N ME RE GONNA HAVVA LI'L ONE-ON-ONE IN MY ROOM RIGHT
!!
MIKAZUCHI'S ROOM KEEP OUT OR DIE!!
REEEEALLY?! WE ARE?!

THAZ RIGHT, I HEARD ALL ABOUT CHOO LI'L GAME, OGISHIMA!!
"Ooo♡! It's Bosses just AUUUUUV. Honoka! If I make H&R the star then i can turn this into a really cool manga for ~~STRAIGHT~~♡"
JEEZ, YOUR SO FULLA CRAP, YOUR EYES RE ~~BROWN~~ !!
ZO! YOU NAFF SEEN THROUGH MEIN MEISTERPLAN, JA?!
FACE IT, PAL, THE SUN'S SETTING ON YOU !
UP YERS, STUPID SUN !!
NOW-NOW, IT'S JUST A -JOKE- (WELL SORT-A) !
You see, the Compilation Editor for "Mikazuchi" told me...
←LIAR
>hic<
WALLA PUB'IK WANSN TA SHEE ISH HONOKA AN' SHAYA BEIN' MIKAJOO... MIKAZSHOOO... BEIN' HISH LUV-SHLAVES !!
ALCOHOL INCREASES HIS EXCITABILITY BY 120%
EEEK
PICKLED PLUM SAKE
MAGAZINE Z'S COMPILATION EDITOR, KŌICHI YUBISUI
(ACTUALLY HE'S PRETTY MELLOW FOR A 44-YEAR-OLD GUY)

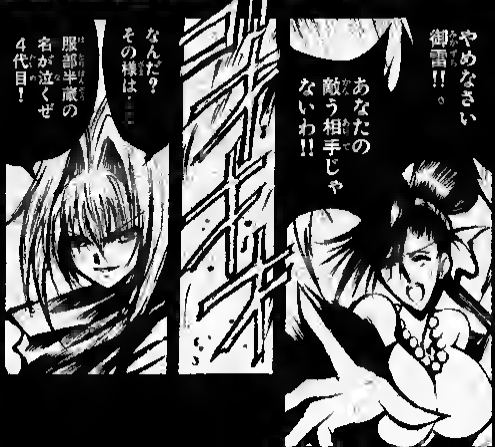

OOO-WOH-HO-HO!
MAKES ME SOUND LIKE I'M MIKA THE BARBARIAN™ !!
YOU ROCK, YUBI-CHAN !!
IT DO, DONNIT ?!
"FOR THE RECORD, I DON'T RECALL EVER SAYING ANYTHING LIKE THAT"
YUBI CHAN (The Sober Version)
WHATEVER! OKAY, EVERYONE, HERE'S A LI'L PREVIEW DRAWING OF WHAT'S TA "COME" !


I CALL IT, "the legend of mika-spoogee a sacred sword plays" !!
GWAH HA HA HA
GWAH HA HA HA
CENSORED
YOU WANT TO TURN "MIKAZUCHI" INTO A PORN RAG FOR DIRTY OLD MEN ?! REEEE- JECTED!
AND WE'LL BE KEEPING THAT "MUCH" FRANCHISE, TOO, IF YOU DON'T MIND !
EDITOR-IN-CHARGE N°1 A. MINOMAN
EDITOR-IN-CHARGE N°2 U. GOTAHERU

Is Volume III of "Mikazuchi" really going to be a <u>Porn Rag</u>?!
Check out the Following Previews and judge for yourself!!

MIKAZUCHI THE LEGEND OF

VOLUME Ⅲ



COMING SPRING 2003!!